

# The THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

THOREAU AROUND THE COUNTRY

NUMBER NINETEEN

APRIL, 1947

## THE ANNUAL MEETING

Once again it is time to start preparing for our annual meeting in Concord on Thoreau's birthday, July 12th. It is too early yet to make any specific announcement other than to say that plans are already under way for a meeting in Concord on that date--Saturday the Twelfth. Since this year marks the centenary of Thoreau's first trip to the Maine Woods, it is likely that the meeting will center on that theme. At any rate, further definite word of the meeting will be sent out to all members late in June. Save the date, look for the announcement, and plan to be with us in Concord.

As usual, the July bulletin will be postponed in its publication so that we may include in it a full report of the meeting. Incidentally, we wish to apologize and explain the slightly tardy appearance of these bulletins of late. With your secretary in North Carolina and the printer in New York City, it now takes three weeks for the bulletin to go through the press where it formerly took three days.

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Marvin Webb, 9920 Toluca Lake Avenue, North Hollywood, California, announces that he is about to construct his own Walden hut someplace in Southern California and conduct a living experiment in the vein of Thoreau. He is anxious to get in touch with any others with similar ideas who might be willing to join him in his experiment and build a hut in his neighborhood.

Wallace B. Conant of Concord, Mass. suggests that the ill-fated ruins of the old Thoreau Texas House in Concord be purchased and the timbers and lumber be used to construct a facsimile of Thoreau's Walden hut near the road at Walden Pond. The material for the facsimile would thus be some originally handled by Thoreau himself, for he helped his father construct the Texas House. And the location of the hut near the road rather than at the actual site would eliminate the opportunity for vandalism. It is suggested that those interested in the project contact Mr. Conant and be prepared to discuss the proposition at our annual meeting in July.

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## ADVICE TO THE WOODSMEN DEPT.

"If you get any pitch on your hands in the pine-woods you have only to rub some of these (bay) berries between your hands to start it off."

--Thoreau's CAPE COD, Page 103.

"I go from tree to tree, from time to time rubbing my hands in brooks and mud-holes, in the hope of finding something that will remove pitch like grease, but in vain.

--Thoreau's JOURNALS, X, 28-29.

--Why don't you try consulting CAPE COD, Hank?

The Concord Thoreau Group continues its interesting series of programs. In January the meeting was devoted to readings from WALDEN. At the March meeting, W. B. Conant showed microfilms of Thoreau manuscripts in the Huntington Library.

The New York Group continues what they all agree are their best series of meetings yet. Among their speakers have been Leonard Kleinfeld, Clayton Hoagland and Daniel Bernstein.

On March 21st, Leonard Kleinfeld spoke at the regular Friday evening service at a synagogue in Jamaica, L.I., on Thoreau as an individualist. We have in our files notes of several sermons preached in Unitarian churches on Thoreau. But this is the first record we have of any other church paying tribute to the Sage of Walden.

Roland Robbins lectured on his "Discovery at Walden" at the Boston Public Library on February 20, 1947, and, we understand, has delivered the same lecture in numerous other places recently.

The president of our society, Raymond Adams, is to deliver a lecture on Thoreau at Walden before the Poetry Society of Charleston, S.C. on April 11.

The Columbia Broadcasting System is to devote their July 13th "Invitation to Learning" broadcast to Thoreau's Walden (12:00 to 12:30 p.m.). If it is as stimulating a discussion as their similar broadcast several years ago, it will be well worth listening to.

Goodspeed's Bookshop in Boston is offering an early manuscript draft of Thoreau's "Night and Moonlight" for sale for six hundred dollars.

Donald Williams of Atlanta, Georgia, writes that Gene Stratton-Porter's best-selling novel of a generation or two ago, THE HARVESTER, is dedicated to Thoreau. A checklist of the books dedicated to HDT would be surprisingly large, we think, and very interesting. Does anyone want to compile it?

The Pilot Press of New York City announces that it is preparing a one-volume edition of Thoreau's writings edited by Malcolm Cowley.

WVU Strategy

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R. P. Jones



"He called Thoreau a tramp"

Reprinted from the DAILY ATHENAEUM, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, February 21, 1947.

THE THOREAU COLLECTION OF THE PIERPONT MORGAN LIBRARY OF NEW YORK CITY

Thoreau students are often hampered in their researches by being unable to locate the original manuscripts of Thoreau's writings. We hope that someday a definitive checklist may be compiled. A few of the large collections have been cataloged. Dr. Raymond Adams several years ago issued a catalog and supplementary catalog to his personal collection here in Chapel Hill. The Abernethy Library at Middlebury College in Vermont has issued several very fine checklists of their holdings. But there are a number of other collections which are unavailable to the student unless he has the good fortune to visit the libraries in person. We are very happy therefore to reprint with the permission of the owners this brief checklist of one of the finest collections of Thoreau manuscripts extant: that in the Morgan Library in New York City.

For those of you who are interested in the history of the making of this fine collection, we suggest that you turn to George S. Hellman's autobiography, LANES OF MEMORY (New York: Knopf, 1927). This checklist is taken directly from the card catalog of the Morgan Library and includes the official call numbers of all the manuscripts:

V-2 71 B Autograph poems, manuscripts and letters signed, dated 1835-1860, together with autograph letters signed from various persons addressed to Thoreau. f. brown mor.

Contents: Poems.

What might they then afar. 15 verses. 8°.

Poor bird. destined to lead thy life. 1 p. 8°.

And the metal goes round it a single bound. 1 p. 12°.

The stars withhold their shining net. 1 p. 12°.

Farewell. 2 p. 8°.

Guido's Aurora. 2 p. 8°.

I'm not alone. 1 p. 8°.

Poverty. 1 p. 8°.

Traveling. 1 p. 8°.

Greece. 1 p. 8°.

Nature. 2 p. 8°.

My life like a stately warrior horse. 1 p. 8°.

Speech of a Saxon Alderman, dated July 1, 1837. 2 p. 8°.

Manuscripts.

The Ways in which a man's style may be said to offend against simplicity. 2 1/2 p. 8°.

The Love of stories, real or fabulous, in young and old. dated 1836. 3 1/2 p. 8°.

An Essay, dated (Sep. 18, 1835) 2 1/2 p. 8°.

An Essay. 8 1/2 p. 8°.

An Essay. Ap. 20, 1835.

Letters.

Receipt signed, dated Concord, April 29, 1851. 1 p. 24°.

A.l.s. in Latin to his sister Helen, Concordiae, Dec. kal. Feb. AD. MDCCCXL. 2 1/2 p. 8°.

(part of p. 3 torn away) also a letter in Latin from Mrs Cynthia Thoreau written by Henry D. Thoreau to Sophia. 1/2 p. 8°.

(continuing on same pap.)

A.l.s. dated New York Aug. 29, 1843, addressed to his mother. 3 1/2 p. 8°.

A.l.s. dated Concord, July 8, 1860, addressed to his sister Sophia. 4 p. 12°.

(and envelope)

A.l.s. dated Concord, Aug. 18, 1857, addressed to Daniel Ricketson. 3 1/2 p. 8°.

A.l.s. (2) addressed to Horace Greeley, dated 1853-1855.

Letters to Thoreau.

Agassiz, John Louis Rodolphe 1807-1873

A.l.s. 1 1/2 p. 4°.

Peabody, A. G.

A.l.s. dated Cambridge, May 30, 1836. 3 p. 8°.

Vose, Henry

A.l.s. dated Butternuts. Oct. 22, 1837. 1 1/2 p. 4°.

Quincy, Josiah 1772-1864

A.l.s. dated Cambridge, 25 June, 1837, addressed to Emerson. 2 p. 8°.

Ripley, Ezra 1751-1841

A.l.s. dated Concord, May 1, 1838, addressed to the friends of education. 1 p. 8°.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo 1803-1882

A.l.s. dated Concord, May 2, 1838, recommending Thoreau as a teacher. 1 p. 4°.

A.l.s. (3) dated 1850-1854.

James, Henry 1811-1882

A.l.s. dated New York, May 12, 1845. 1 p. 8°.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel 1804-1864

A.l.s. (2) dated 1848-1849.

Richardson, James 1817-1863

A.l.s. dated Dec. 9, Cambridge. 1 p. 8°.

Greeley, Horace 1811-1872

A.l.s. (2) dated 1848-1852.

Harris, Thaddeus William 1795-1852

A.l.s. dated Cambridge, Mass. June 27, 1854

1 p. 8°.



‡ brown mor.

v-2 ll B The Service; autograph manuscript signed, dated in pencil, July, 1840. 22‡p. tied twice with pink silk bows in brown mor. case. 4‡ Pub-lished, Boston, 1902. Goodspeed.

Autograph letter signed Margaret Fuller, dated Dec. 1 (1840?) addressed to H. D. Thoreau re-fusing the above manuscript The Service for publication in the Dial. 1‡p. 8‡

v-2 ll B [Thoughts on books]. Extracts from various authors, with his comments upon them.

In vol. lettered Thoreau. Miscellaneous Ex-tracts. ‡ ef. in br. slip case.

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#### THE THOREAU FAMILY

(In just the past few years much new light has been shed on the ancestry and family relationship of the Thoreaus. The SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE, in its issue of Sept. 8, 1945, published a letter of James Walker of New Zealand. In our Bulletin #17 of last October, we published Raymond Adams' "A Thoreau Family Tree." We are now happy to add still further information to the store by publishing the following note by Cephas Guillet of New York City who has de-voted much time to a study of the Thoreau genealogy and has been able to spend some time in research on the Isle of Jersey.)

In the October issue of the BULLETIN, I noticed a statement that a family of Thoreaus living in the Western states and particularly in California were "probably" related to the Henry D. line. I happen to have the facts regarding these two Thoreau fami-lies culled from the registers of the Jersey par-ishes to which they respectively belong, namely the St. Helier parish on the one hand and the St. Mary and St. John parishes on the other; and I find that, as far back as those records go there is no con-nection whatever between the two families.

The earliest ancestor noted of the Western Thoreaus was Philip Thoreau who married Esther Vi-berth. They had four children, Philip, Mary, John and William. Philip was baptized 26 April, 1761; Mary, 2 Jan., 1763; John, 28 May, 1769; and Wil-liam, 22 Aug., 1778. This William married Sarah Mourant, and had a son William who married Margaret Sorsoleil. These had a daughter Margaret who mar-ried Philip Rive; these in turn had a daughter Mar-garet who married Henry C. Lawford. These two last I met in 1936 while on my second visit to Jersey. (I had visited it in 1892). The John W. and Wil-liam Thoreau, whom also I met at that time, were her first cousins, being the sons of her uncle John. Her uncle Philip went to America in 1870. He had married Ann Touet, and these two became the progenitors of the Thoreaus of Western America, through their two sons Philip and William. What chiefly interests us in their connection is that William named his eldest son Henry D., and this Henry D. also named his eldest son Henry D., they being under the impression that their family, be-ing named Thoreau and having come originally from Jersey, must be related to Henry D.

As a matter of fact, when we turn away from the registers of these rural parishes to those of St. Helier, we find an entirely different line. The names of the wives of the St. Helier Thoreaus are all different from those of the rural parishes. The earliest ancestor of Henry D. named in the St. Helier registers was Pierre Thoreau. His children were Pierre, Jacques, Jeanne, Catherine and Phil-ippe. Philippe, the youngest son, married Marie Le Gallais and had three sons, Philippe, Jean and Pierre. It was Jean who migrated to America in 1773 and whose grandson was our well-beloved phil-osopher. That Jean has no living descendants. As for Philippe and Pierre, they neither of them came to America. Philippe, born 1753, married Marie Journeaux in 1774, by whom he had four children, two of them boys, Philippe, born 1776, married Elizabeth Valpy, by whom he had eleven children,

three of them boys, William Amice born 1798, died 1814; Thomas Valpy born 1800; and George Lempriere, born 1801. Jean, born 1786, was the other son of Philippe and Marie Journeaux.

The third and last son of Philippe Thoreau and Marie Le Gallais was Pierre, born 1755. In 1787 he married Elizabeth Anquetil, by whom he had four children, Elizabeth, Pierre Thomas, Jacques and Anne. Pierre Thomas was born in 1790. Late in life he married Sophie Hubert, by whom, in spite of his old age, he had three children: Sophie, born 1856; Julie, born 1857; and Alfred Thomas, born 1859. Sanborn says Alfred Thomas was with the Ox-ford Press in New York for a time.

Sophie married Clement Fixel Du Parcq in 1878 in the St. Helier Parish church. They had a son 5 Aug., 1880, who is now the Right Honorable Sir Herbert Du Parcq, Lord Justice of Appeal. I am told by Professor Adams that he headed relief for exiled Channel Islanders during the war.

(We might add that Mr. Guillet has deposited with us a much more detailed expansion of the above note and we are placing copies of it in the Concord Free Public Library and the Abernethy Library at Middlebury College for the convenience of future students.)

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#### NOTES FOR THOREAU STUDENTS

We wish to remind the students and scholars among our members that the columns of our bulletin are always open to research questions concerning Thoreau. We are happy thus to be of assistance now to two scholars:

Robert Stowell, English Department, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, would like to have an explanation of the "Glass-house village" in Chelmsford, at the Great Bend of the Merrimack, men-tioned on Page 114 of the Riverside Edition of A WEEK. Can anyone help him?

Edwin Way Teale suggests that a catalog and depository of all known photographs (and we might add drawings and paintings) of Thoreau and Thoreau scenes be compiled. I hope that some sweet day our society will have a permanent headquarters in Con-cord where such materials could be deposited along with photostats and microfilms of all Thoreau man-uscript material. But until that day I shall be glad to act as a clearinghouse for any who may care to send in notice of such illustrative material or the illustrations themselves.

Incidentally, Mr. Teale points out that on Page 184 of Charles S. Olcott's THE LURE OF THE CAMERA (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1914) there is an early photograph of the cairn. May we add that we erred in the last bulletin in captioning the photograph from Mr. Teale's book as Thoreau's Cove. It is instead the other side of Walden Pond near Emerson's Cliff.

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"You call yourself a great traveler, perhaps, but can you get beyond the influence of a cer-tain class of ideas?"

--Thoreau's JOURNALS, IX, 216.

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#### ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY: NOTES AND REVIEWS

Brown, Percy W. "Thoreau." in LAND AND BORDERLAND. Cleveland, Ohio: Privately printed, 1946. Un-paged. A poem.

Burnham, Philip E., and Collins, Carvel. "Contri-bution to a Bibliography of Thoreau, 1938-1945." BULLETIN OF BIBLIOGRAPHY, XIX (Sept.-Dec., 1946), 16-18. An excellent checklist bringing the White bibliography up-to-date. To be completed in the next issue of the magazine. Incidentally, we have on hand once again a few extra copies of the White bibliography which we will be glad to send out as long as the supply lasts at ten cents a copy.



- Damon, Bertha. "Grandma Reads Thoreau." in Brown, Sharon, ed. PRESENT TENSE. New York: Harcourt, 1946, pp. 297-302. Another reprinting of this delightful essay.
- Dodge, Norman L. "Travels in Concord." THE MONTH AT GOODSPEED'S, XVIII (Jan.-Feb., 1947), 113-5. Photographs and description of a first edition of WALDEN.
- Francis, Robert. "Thoreau's Mask of Serenity." FORUM, CVI (Jan., 1947), 72-77. One of the best studies we've yet seen on the problems of the personality of Thoreau. Raises many extremely interesting questions.
- Frost, Ruth H. "Thoreau's Worcester Friends. 2. Harrison G. O. Blake." NATURE OUTLOOK, IV (Nov. 1945), 16-18. The later years of Thoreau's old friend and editor.
- Gerecht, Asher. "Lives of Quiet Desperation." ESQUIRE. October, 1946. Pp. 123, 167-8. A weird short story about a printer who suddenly discovered Thoreau.
- Harding, Walter. "In Defense of Thoreau." YANKEE, XI (March, 1947), 26-7. A slightly revised reprinting of an essay printed first in the Chicago TRIBUNE for December 1, 1946.



Thoreau at Walden, one of the illustrations in Roland Wells Robbins' "Discovery at Walden," which is reviewed on this page.

- Hayward, Adrian. "The White Pond Tree." NATURE OUTLOOK, IV (Nov., 1945), 29-36. The full history of Thoreau's mysterious submerged pine.
- Madison, Charles A. "Henry David Thoreau: Transcendental Individualist." in CRITICS AND CRUSADERS: A CENTURY OF AMERICAN PROTEST. New York: Henry Holt, 1947. Pp. 174-93. A reprinting of a very stimulating study of Thoreau as an anarchist.
- Matthiessen, Francis O. "Walden: Craftsmanship vs. Technique." in Oliver, Egbert S., ed. GIVING FORM TO IDEAS. New York: Odyssey Press, 1946. Pp. 466-73. Reprinting a portion of AMERICAN RENAISSANCE. Also reprinted are "On the Fitchburg Railroad" (pp. 454-463) from WALDEN, and comments on Thoreau by Hawthorne and Prudence Ward (pp. 463-66).
- Robbins, Roland Wells. DISCOVERY AT WALDEN. Concord, Mass.: Published by the author, 1947. 60pp. Illustrated and with an introduction by Walter Harding. Mr. Robbins is an archaeologist by instinct. Without formal training he is as thorough and as careful as though he were on a Peabody Museum expedition to Walden Pond. The 1945 Centennial meeting of the society aroused his curiosity about the exact location of Thoreau's house in relation to the overgrown cairn and the four granite posts at the putative site. By the time the society met in 1946, he had scores of nails, bushels of plaster and brickbats, a chimney foundation, and photographic records of every inch of his excavations, together with a watertight case for the orientation of the house and its being adjacent to and north of the cairn. This little book presents that evidence by means of a chronological
- record of the investigation and the photographs that prove his case. It contains too much conscious humor and too much extraneous matter. Perhaps it should have been a pamphlet.
- Raymond Adams.
- The Same. Reviews. Babcock, Frederic. CHICAGO TRIBUNE. February 23, 1947; CONCORD ENTERPRISE. February 13, 1947; CONCORD JOURNAL. Feb. 13, 1947.
- Sanborn, F. B. "Our American Hermit." CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. Jan. 25, 1947. A reprinting from the 1889 biography of Thoreau.
- Snow, Edward Rowe. A PILGRIM RETURNS TO CAPE COD. Boston: Yankee Publishing Co., 1946. While this book is often awkward in literary structure, it is probably the most complete and authoritative volume on Cape Cod today. Mr. Snow hikes over much the same territory that Thoreau covered and much more too. He gives an excellent picture of the Cape today and frequently throws new light on many of Thoreau's experiences. There is a particularly good account of the present state of the Wellfleet Oysterman's house. It should be required reading for all who want a fuller understanding of Thoreau's CAPE COD.
- "Thoreau in Provincetown." CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. Jan. 7, 1947. A reprinting of a brief section from the above book.
- Thoreau, Henry David. "The Call of the River." ENCORE. February, 1947. P. 97. An excerpt from A WEEK.
- "Ktaadn Trout." in Goodspeed, Charles E., ed. A TREASURY OF FISHING STORIES. New York: A.S. Barnes, 1946. pp. 71-4. An excerpt from THE MAINE WOODS.
- THE PORTABLE THOREAU. Edited by Carl Bode. New York: Viking, 1947. 696pp. An excellent new anthology of Thoreau's most important writings, well edited, with a thorough introduction, chronology, bibliography, and notes on each selection by the editor of Thoreau's poems. It is the only inexpensive anthology with excerpts from Thoreau's letters, poems and journals. It contains selections from all of Thoreau's books and the entire WALDEN. Our only objection is that it entirely omits the important John Brown essays.
- The Same. Review. Babcock, Frederic. CHICAGO TRIBUNE. March 9, 1947.
- Selections. in Goodspeed, Charles E., ed. ANGLING IN AMERICA: ITS EARLY HISTORY AND LITERATURE. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1939. Thoreau on fishing.
- WALDEN. Edited by Edwin Way Teale. Review. NATURAL HISTORY. January, 1947.
- Ueland, Brenda. IF YOU WANT TO WRITE . . . New York: Putnam, 1938. A high school student criticizes Stevenson's evaluation of Thoreau, pp. 150-156.
- Woodbury, Benjamin C. "The Unco Guid; or Finding What One Is Looking For." JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMEPATHY, XL (Jan., 1947), 23-25. On the first great disciple of Thoreau, Samuel Arthur Jones, with a note on the Thoreau Society.

The Thoreau Society is an informal organization of several hundred students and followers of the life and works of Henry David Thoreau. Membership is open to anyone interested. Fees are one dollar a year. This bulletin is issued occasionally, usually quarterly, by the secretary. All the material, unless otherwise assigned, is compiled and written by the secretary.

The officers of the society are Raymond Adams, Chapel Hill, N.C., president; Mrs. Caleb Wheeler, Concord, Mass., vice-president; and Walter Harding, Bridgewater, Mass., secretary-treasurer.

Correspondence concerning this bulletin should be addressed to the secretary:

Walter Harding  
English Department  
Chapel Hill

North Carolina.

In response to many inquiries: all material in these bulletins, unless otherwise signed, has been written by the secretary.